

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: ARMY CHIEF FABIAO LABELLED EFFORTS TO BLOCK TROOP
EMBARKATIONS FOR ANGOLA AS COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES WHICH
WILL BE MET BY STRONG DISCIPLINARY MEASURES. MRPP SPOKESMAN
DESCRIBED WAVE OF VIOLENCE OUTSIDE LISBON AS SPONTANEOUS REVOLT
OF RURAL MASSES AND IS ANTI-PCP BUT NOT ANTI-COMMUNIST. POPULAR
UNITY FRONT HAS EXPELLED PCP FROM MEMBERSHIP IN PROVISIONAL SEC-
RETARIAT. MORE POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS ARE PLANNED. END
SUMMARY

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1. ARMY COMMUNIQUE: ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO ISSUED

STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT SEPT 1 ATTACKING THOSE ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT EMBARKATION OF TROOPS FOR ANGOLA. STATEMENT LABELLED SUCH ATTEMPTS AS "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES" WHICH WOULD BE MET BY THE STRONGEST DISCIPLINARY ACTION, INCLUDING EXPULSION FROM ARMED FORCES. MILITARY POLICE HELD DEMONSTRATION SEPT 1 IN SUPPORT OF THEIR STATEMENT THAT THEY WOULD REFUSE ASSIGNMENT TO ANGOLA.

2. MRPP'S VIEWS ON ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE: MRPP CONTRIBUTOR TO WEEKLY "EXPRESSO", JOAO FREIRE ANTUNES, ANALYZED ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE IN PORTUGAL IN PAPER'S AUGUST 30 EDITION. BASIC CONCLUSIONS: VIOLENCE IS NOT "ANTI-COMMUNIST" BUT ANTI-PCP; NOT THE WORK OF SMALL TOWN BIG SHOTS AND REACTIONARY CLERGY (ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE FINGERS IN PIE), BUT SPONTANEOUS REVOLT OF RURAL MASSES. TRUE COMMUNISTS (SUCH AS THOSE FOUND IN MRPP) MUST PROFIT FROM THIS RURAL REVOLT IN ORDER TO FURTHER INTERESTS OF THE REVOLUTION. OTHER CONCLUSIONS: PCP'S ATTEMPT TO SEIZE TOTAL POWER BEGAN WITH CUNHAL'S RETURN TO PORTUGAL IN APRIL 1974; PCP DELUDED ITSELF INTO THINKING THAT ORGANIZATION AND MONEY WERE ALL IT NEEDED TO GAIN POWER. PCP'S ARROGANCE WAS UNLIMITED -- THE GREED OF THE NOUVEAUX RICHES; PCP IDENTITY IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL WAS NOT WITH RURAL PROLETARIAT, BUT WITH LOCAL BIGWIGS (TOWN LAWYER, DOCTOR, MANAGER) AND ITS PARTY HEADQUARTERS WERE SEEN AS "SMALL SOVIET EMBASSIES DECENTRALIZED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY." PORTUGUESE PEOPLE HAVE WATCHED THEIR ECONOMIC SITUATION WORSEN STEADILY SINCE APRIL 1974 REVOLUTION; SINCE NORTH HAS BEEN "MOST SACRIFICED" REGION, IT NATURALLY HAS BEEN MOST INCLINED TO REVOLT. (COMMENT: MRPP ANALYSIS IS PROBABLY ACCURATE IN ATTRIBUTING ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE MORE TO SPONTANEITY THAN TO ORGANIZED CONSPIRACY. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT RULE OUT ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE BY ELEMENTS AMONG ORGANIZED POLITICAL FORCES, INCLUDING MRPP ITSELF.)

3. FUP EXPELS PCP: IN COMMUNIQUE RELEASED SEPT 1, POPULAR UNITY FRONT (FUP) ANNOUNCED EXPULSION OF PCP FROM FUP PROVISIONAL SECRETARIAT. FUP DOCUMENT CITED AS REASON FOR ACTION PCP'S FAILURE TO RESPOND SATISFACTORILY TO FUP MEMBERS' CRITICISM OF PCP PROPOSAL FOR BROADER COALITION INCLUDING SOCIALISTS. COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED CONTINUED FUP WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH PCP. (COMMENT: CREATION OF FUP WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRANSPARENT TACTICAL MANEUVER BY PCP IN EFFORT TO SAVE GONCALVES AS PRIME MINISTER. WITH DECISION TO SHIFT GONCALVES TO ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, PCP TACTIC SHIFTED AND FUP CONNECTION WAS NO LONGER USEFUL. PCP MUST NOW PAY PRICE FOR THIS EFFORT TO USE THE FAR LEFT FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES. DEFECTIONS FROM PCP TO VARIOUS RADICAL GROUPS, WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN NOTED, WILL BE FURTHER ENCOURAGED BY LATEST EXAMPLE OF PCP "OPPORTUNISM.")

4. DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED: DEMONSTRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 3

INCLUDE:

- PRP-BR WILL HOLD RALLY IN LISBON SPORTS PAVILLION TO HIGHLIGHT NEED FOR REVOLUTIONARY UNITY OF "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES AND WORKERS IN FACE OF CURRENT CRISIS.
- PS HAS CALLED DEMONSTRATION IN COIMBRA TO DEMAND GOVERNMENT RESPECT FOR POPULAR WILL AND TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENTS AND CENTRAL MILITARY REGION'S AUGUST 28 COMMUNIQUE. CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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